Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

South Grampian and Southeast Highlands

Including South and East Cairngorms National Park, Aberdeenshire and Angus Hills, Ben Vrackie, Ben Lawers, Loch Tay and Ochils
Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 23 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 24 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Friday 22 Dec 2023 at 14:12 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for changeable weather up to Christmas. Lower confidence for a window of drier, brighter, less windy weather on Boxing Day.

Headline for Saturday 23 Dec 2023: Cloudy. Sleet and snow in north, turning increasingly to rain. Windy and feeling bitterly cold.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Medium Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Medium Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Sleet	Sleet	Light rain	Cloudy	Cloudy
Precipitation probability							
00%	60%	60%	60%	50%	40%	20%	20%

Forecast for Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy with heavy rain over Perthshire and Ochil hills overnight but heavy sleet and snow further north. The snow level will rise during Saturday morning but still likely to produce significant accumulations of snow on higher slopes in the north of area with possible blizzard conditions as winds strengthen. Gradually the snow in north of area will turn to rain at all levels as milder air extends northwards across Scotland. Drier conditions developing during afternoon and evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance in morning, improving 40% in afternoon.

Low Cloud and visibility: Generally misty conditions during the morning with poor visibility in rain and cloud and virtually zero visibility in heavier snow leading to navigational difficulties. Also extensive clouds well down the hills. Visibility improving good in the afternoon with clouds lifting above some of the tops,

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1100	18/22 W	27/33 W	34/42 W	37/46 W	43/53 W	48/60 W	45/58 W	44/56 SW	45/59 W
900	13/17 W	17/22 W	22/30 W	25/34 W	29/40 W	33/45 W	31/44 W	31/43 SW	33/47 W
600	6/10 NW	5/10 NW	5/11 SW	9/20 W	17/33 W	22/40 W	22/40 W	22/39 SW	24/44 W
300	2/6 N	3/8 N	3/7 E	2/6 NE	3/11 N	9/24 W	11/27 W	11/26 W	12/29 W
Glen	3/7 N	3/8 E	6/11 E	6/11 E	3/9 SE	8/22 W	12/28 W	11/25 SW	14/29 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1100	-2/-9	-0/-8	2/-5	4/-3	4/-3	4/-4	4/-4	4/-3	4/-3
900	-1/-6	0/-6	2/-4	3/-3	4/-2	5/-1	5/-1	6/-0	6/0
600	0/-3	0/-2	1/-1	3/0	6/2	7/3	7/3	7/3	8/4
300	2/0	1/-0	1/-1	1/-0	4/2	8/5	9/6	9/7	10/7
Glen	2/1	2/-0	1/-2	1/-2	3/1	7/4	9/6	10/7	11/8
Freezing Level*	500m	500m	500m	400m	1700m	1900m	2000m	2400m	1800m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View
Feeling bitterly cold, even when less cold air moves northwards. It will still be wet with strong winds. Also difficult underfoot conditions.

Forecast for Sunday 24 Dec 2023
Weather: A drier and brighter day with scattered showers, mostly over the Perthshire hills and the Ochils. It will become very windy with difficult walking conditions once again.

Maximum wind: Westerly gales with severe gales on the tops, possibly storm force later in north. Average speeds 40 to 50 with gusts 70mph but 80 to 90mph possible over tops of eastern Cairngorms and Aberdeenshire hills by evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60%.

Low Cloud and visibility: Good visibility between showers with occasional cloud cover 700 to 900m. Brief reductions to poor visibility as showers pass by, especially in southwest of area, clouds more extensive down to 600m.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 7 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 7 Celsius falling to plus 2 Celsius by evening.
Freezing level: Above tops for much of the day, lowering to 1000m after dark,

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